

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 031265

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:PCBROWN:SLU

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EUR/SOV:JFMATLOCK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US CASC CGEN PINT PINS

SUBJ: DETENTION OF UPI CORRESPONDENTS

REF: STATE 27890; MOSCOW 2019 AND SUBSEQUENT

1. SUMMARY: EUR/SOV DIRECTOR MATLOCK DISCUSSED MOSELEY-OGDEN DETENTION WITH SOVIET COUNSELOR MYSHKOV ON FEBRUARY 14, REPEATING POINTS MADE BY EMBASSY IN FRANK, INFORMAL MANNER DESIGNED QTE NOT TO SCORE DEBATE POINTS BUT TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVE IMPROVEMENT OF FAIRLY SERIOUS PROBLEM. UNQTE END SUMMARY.

2. MATLOCK SAID MOSELEY-OGDEN AFFAIR HAS TWO BASIC ASPECTS. FIRST WAS QUESTION OF ABIDING BY CONSULAR CONVENTION. HE NOTED THAT TREATMENT BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES OF BOTH MOSELEY AND OGDEN AND OF CONSULAR OFFICER WHO WENT TO PRECINCT HEADQUARTERS WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH GUARANTEE OF CONSULAR ACCESS IN CONSULAR CONVENTION. MATLOCK SAID PROBLEM KEEPS RECURRING AND IS SERIOUS SINCE IT IS MATTER OF COMPLYING WITH FORMAL AGREEMENT. WE FRANKLY WONDER WHAT INSTRUCTIONS SOVIET MILITIA HAVE

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PAGE 02 STATE 031265

REGARDING THE CONSULAR CONVENTION SINCE US CITIZENS ARE FREQUENTLY DENIED PERMISSION TO TELEPHONE US CONSUL.

MATLOCK ALSO NOTED THAT MFA'S REPLY TO OUR PROTEST NOTE DID NOT EVEN ADDRESS ITSELF TO QUESTION OF CONSULAR ACCESS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WE KNOW OF NO CASE IN WHICH

SOVIET CITIZENS DETAINED IN US HAVE BEEN DENIED IMMEDIATE PERMISSION TO CONTACT SOVIET CONSUL. IN ADDITION, DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIES SOVIET EMBASSY AND FACILITATES ACCESS WHEN THESE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS OCCUR.

3. TURNING TO SECOND ASPECT OF PROBLEM, MATLOCK SAID WE COULD SEE NO BASIS FOR CLAIM THAT JOURNALISTS WERE NOT COVERING LEGITIMATE NEWS STORY. THOUGH THEY MAY HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO DEMONSTRATION IN ADVANCE BY ANONYMOUS CALL, CHARGE THEY WERE INVOLVED IN INSTIGATING DEMONSTRATION IS LUDICROUS. SOVIET HANDLING OF AFFAIR TURNED RELATIVELY MINOR EVENT, ONE WHICH WOULD HAVE RECEIVED SLIGHT ATTENTION IN US PRESS, INTO A SERIES OF STORIES ABOUT DETENTION OF JOURNALISTS, NON-ACCESS, ETC.

4. MATLOCK SAID HE WAS BEING INFORMAL AND FRANK BECAUSE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM IS CLEARLY IN OUR COMMON INTEREST. SOVIET HANDLING OF MATTERS OF THIS TYPE DOES MORE DAMAGE TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS THAN DOES MINOR STORY ABOUT A DEMONSTRATION. BY BLOWING ISSUE OUT OF PROPORTION, SOVIETS MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO CONVINCE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND CONGRESS THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.

5. MYSHKOV DID NOT CONTEST MATLOCK'S CONTENTION THAT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO SEEK A RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM THAN TO SCORE DEBATING POINTS. HE MENTIONED THAT REPORT RECEIVED BY SOVIET EMBASSY SAID MOSELEY AND OGDEN APPEARED TO BE PART OF DEMONSTRATION AND DID NOT IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFY SELVES AS JOURNALISTS, BUT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THRUST OF ARGUMENTS AND WOULD OF COURSE CONVEY TO MFA. RUSH

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**Subject:** DETENTION OF UPI CORRESPONDENTS  
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